

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 459
By Ford S

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Jason Bradley Reese
on being selected National Youth of the Year by
the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

WHEREAS, in an era where bad news seems to dominate, it is fitting that the General Assembly stop and honor those who excel as has Jason Reese; and

WHEREAS, a graduate of Morristown-Hamblen School West, Jason joined the Boys & Girls Club eight years ago, when he met Mr. Bill Seals, a man he credits with encouraging his sense of self-respect, strong morals and virtues that have helped him to excel; and

WHEREAS, an outstanding member of the Boys and Girls Club of Morristown, he has shown great leadership, citizenship, character and educational achievement while overcoming great social and financial obstacles; and

WHEREAS, Reese, a role model for other Club members, served as a junior staff member at the Club, as a delegate to the Club's Board of Directors, as national winner in the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's Annual Fine Arts Exhibit and has chaired the Club's annual career development program entitled "Is There Life After 18?"; and

WHEREAS, Jason Reese was raised in public housing where his only father figures were those he saw on television; and

WHEREAS, Jason Bradley Reese was chosen Morristown Youth of the Year, Tennessee Youth of the Year, Southeast Youth of the Year and National Youth of the Year by the Boys and Girls Club of America; and

WHEREAS, Jason joined the Boys Club eight years ago and has since become active in a teen leadership group and has gone on to attend the University of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, through his accomplishments, he has set a precedent of achievements for which present and future generations of young people may strive; and

WHEREAS, Reese received a \$10,000.00 scholarship from the Reader's Digest Association in addition to other scholarships; and

WHEREAS, he reported to morning show hostess, Paula Zahn, on the "CBS This Morning" program that he intends to use his scholarship money to pursue medical school; and

WHEREAS, he has so ably represented the Boys and Girls Clubs, the city of Morristown and the state of Tennessee when appearing before U.S. Congressmen and the President of the United States of America, William Jefferson Clinton; and

WHEREAS, through four years of high school Jason maintained a 3.83 grade point average, earned eighteen hours of college credit in calculus, history and biology, was named National Merit Scholar Winner, won the East Tennessee Physics competition, served as captain of the Scholar Bowl Team, scored a 32 on the ACT test and was selected for the Governor's School of Science; and

WHEREAS, Jason Reese has raised funds for a flood ravaged Boys and Girls Club, tutored scores of young people, collected food for the homeless, worked part-time to financially assist his family, helped refurbish a local neglected park, and assisted in raising funds for educational programs for fellow public housing residents; and

WHEREAS, his character and high moral values have earned him the respect of his peers, teachers, co-workers, Boys and Girls Club staff and community leaders; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause to specially recognize one of the most outstanding young people in our state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That Jason Bradley Reese be recognized as National Youth of the Year by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.